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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/670,114

09/24/2003

Akihiko Mochida

17049

7178

23389 7590 03/12/2007  
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EXAMINER

CZEKAJ, DAVID J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/12/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/670,114	MOCHIDA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Dave Czekaj	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/31/07 has been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 4-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karasawa (US 5,196,928) in view of Loonen (5255092) in further view of Takahashi et al. (6466256), (hereinafter referred to as "Takahashi").

As for claim 4, 8, and 9, Karasawa teaches of an image pickup element that constitutes one image-captured surface by arranging a plurality of scanning lines having a first number of pixels (Karasawa: Column 3, Lines 38-42); a drive circuit for outputting

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to the image pickup element a drive signal with a first frequency for sequentially reading an image-captured signal image- captured on the image pickup surface of the image pickup element for every scanning line (Karasawa: Column 3, Lines 43-45); a line memory having a memory capacity which can store one scanning line of image-captured signals read from the image pickup element (Karasawa: Column 3, Lines 47-65); a writing signal generating circuit for outputting a writing signal with the first frequency to the line memory and for writing the image-captured signal and a reading signal generating circuit for outputting a reading signal with a frequency to the line memory and for reading image-captured signals stored in one scanning line (Karasawa: Column 3, Lines 47-65); a video signal processing circuit for performing video signal processing on the image-captured signals read with the second frequency from the line memory (Karasawa: Column 3, Lines 43-47). However, Karasawa fails to disclose reading a signal with a second frequency which is higher than the first frequency and the frequency dividing circuit as claimed. Loonen teaches that prior art computing systems cannot accurately adjust a clock frequency (Loonen: column 1, lines 35-55). To help alleviate this problem, Loonen discloses "reading a signal with a second frequency which is higher than the first write frequency" (Loonen: column 3, lines 40-50). Takahashi teaches that feeding a digital signal to a remote peripheral is not expedient (Takahashi: column 2, lines 25-26). To help alleviate this problem, Takahashi discloses an apparatus comprising an oscillator for generating a clock signal having a preset frequency, the oscillator is provided in a camera control unit to which the endoscope is removable connected (Takahashi: column 9, line 57 – column 10, line

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5; column 7, lines 5-7, wherein the oscillator is part of the video processor which is connectable to the endoscope) and a frequency dividing circuit which divides the clock signal to generate a signal for the drive circuit (Takahashi: column 10, lines 1-5, wherein the frequency dividing circuit is the frequency demultiplier). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the apparatus disclosed by Karasawa, add the different frequencies taught by Loonen, and add the processing taught by Takahashi in order to obtain an apparatus that can accurately adjust a clock signal to correctly display a video signal.

As for claim 5, most of the limitations of the claim have been discussed in the above rejection of claim 4. Karasawa also teaches of the video signal processing means has an enlarge/reduce processing function for performing horizontal enlargement or reduction (Karasawa : Column 5, Lines 1-8).

As for claim 6, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious to superimpose an input image with the captured image (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order more easily provide information to a user.

As for claim 7, most of the limitations of the claim have been discussed in the above rejection of claim 4. Karasawa also teaches of adding a second image pickup unit, which shows greater detail than the first but with all the circuitry mentioned above (Karasawa : Column 2, Lines 58-68).


### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Czekaj whose telephone number is (571) 272-7327. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DJC

  
**MEHRDAD DASTOURI**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
*TC 2600*